

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 174995

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TAGS:PFOR, OAS

SUBJECT: SAN JOSE OAS MEETING AND THE CUBAN SANCTIONS
QUESTION

THE FOLLOWING EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE AT THE DEPARTMENT'S NOON
BRIEFING, JULY 24:

Q: CAN YOU TELL US WHAT IS GOING ON IN SAN JOSE WITH
RESPECT TO THE CUBA SANCTIONS QUESTION?

A: I'LL TRY. IT'S MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE DELEGATIONS
IN SAN JOSE DISPLAYED A DECIDED CONSENSUS IN FAVOR OF THE
PRINCIPLE OF LIFTING SANCTIONS BY SIMPLE MAJORITY WHEN THEY
VOTED 19 TO 2 TO AMEND THE RIO TREATY TO PERMIT THIS.
BECAUSE THE AMENDMENTS TO THE TREATY MUST BE RATIFIED
BEFORE COMING INTO FORCE, THIS ACTION DOES NOT DIRECTLY
AFFECT THE CURRENT OAS SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA. HOWEVER,
THIS VOTE OF 19 TO 2 OBVIOUSLY SETS THE STAGE AND GREATLY
INCREASES THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE CUBAN SANCTIONS ISSUE
ITSELF WILL BE DEALT WITH IN SAN JOSE.

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PAGE 02 STATE 174995

NOW YOU RECALL THAT THE DELEGATIONS--I DON'T HAVE INFORMA-

TION AS TO WHAT'S HAPPENED AT TODAY'S DELIBERATIONS--BUT
THE DELEGATIONS WERE EXPECTED TO VOTE OR CONSIDER
CONSTITUTING THEMSELVES AS A SPECIAL ORGAN OF CONSULTATION
UNDER THE RIO TREATY TO CONSIDER THE MEXICAN PROPOSAL WHICH
WOULD FREE EACH MEMBER INDIVIDUALLY TO DETERMINE THE CONDUCT
OF ITS RELATIONS WITH CUBA. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT
IF THIS WAS ADOPTED THIS MEETING WOULD THEN TAKE PLACE
NEXT WEEK, I BELIEVE TUESDAY.

AND OUR POSITION ON THIS MEXICAN RESOLUTION THAT IS
EXPECTED TO BE INTRODUCED AT THIS SPECIAL ORGAN OF CONSUL-
TATION IS THAT, AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE BEEN COMMITTED FOR
SOME TIME TO GO ALONG WITH AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION PROVIDED
IT ENJOYED ADEQUATE SUPPORT AMONG THE OTHER MEMBERS. AND
IT LOOKS NOW AS THOUGH SUCH SUPPORT EXISTS. KISSINGER

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